THE DICKENSIAN

A Magazine for Dickens Lovers
and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

VOL. I. MARCH, 1905. No. 3.

WHEN FOUND——

THE great enthusiasm shown at the many gatherings held all over the country to celebrate the ninety-third anniversary of the birth of Dickens was a very remarkable testimony to his genius and popularity. One could not take up a paper during the first week in February without finding lengthy articles on the novelist and his works. In nearly every weekly and daily paper in London and the provinces special articles, dealing with the novelist and his associations with the different cities, and leading articles on his influence, were conspicuous. Hundreds of columns of appreciation have reached us from every corner of the British Isles, and many from abroad. Not since his death have the name and fame of England's great novelist been the subject of so much eulogy from press and platform.

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Not only has the Fellowship celebrated the event at its various branches throughout the country, but the Boz Club and other societies have done homage to the memory of the master. America, Australia, Africa, Canada, too, have joined in showing reverence for his memory and helping to keep it green. Some really wonderful tributes have appeared, adequately to refer to which would take up most of the pages of our magazine. It may be truly said that every phase of his career and teaching has been touched upon. The true note was struck by the *Pall Mall Gazette* in its leading article, on February 8th, which is reprinted on another page by permission of the proprietors.

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In the midst of all this encomium it would be surprising if there were no vituperative sneer. We have, however, only discovered one, and as might have been expected, the writer was not bold enough to give his name, but timidly hid himself behind the lonely pseudonym of "Scrogs." His poor whimper of a letter is headed "Dickens: the Glorified Reporter," and is put on record in this number as a curiosity. Of course shoals of letters followed to prove how fatuous "Scrogs" was, but that really wasn't necessary.

We are to have another Dickens play, this time a version of *Dombey and Son*. Mr. Oswald Brand, of the Grand Theatre, Islington, who, it will be remembered, produced successful adaptations of *Bleak House*, *Oliver Twist*, and *The Old Curiosity Shop*, is responsible for it, and will present it at a West End theatre. There have not been many Dombey plays, indeed we can only find record of three: *Heart's Delight*, by Andrew Halliday, in which Samuel Emery made such a hit as Cap'n Cuttle, a dramatised version by John Brougham, in three acts, and *Captain Cuttle, a Comic Drama*, in one act, by the same author, of which the two last were produced at Burton's Theatre, New York, in 1850.

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The message which Mr. Henry F. Dickens sent to each of the branches of the Fellowship on the occasion of their birthday celebration of Dickens ran: "I send you hearty greetings. I ask you to remember the motto which was handed by my father to the members of the Birmingham Institute in 1869: 'Courage, persevere.'"

A correspondent had the resolution to offer to the *Manchester Guardian* an alternative motto taken from the works of the master—

"Sir," said Mr. Tupman, "you're a fellow."
"Sir," said Mr. Pickwick, "you're another."

* * *

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald is writing another book on the one subject dear to him. It will be published shortly by Messrs. Chatto and Windus under the title of *The Life of Charles Dickens as Revealed in his Writings*. The book will be a very deep and exhaustive one, showing the influence of localities on "Boz's" feelings, thoughts, and talents. It will also set out what Mr. Fitzgerald calls the "main motor forces" of Dickens's writings, and the dual influence of his nature: Dickens the writer and Dickens the man, which is the real secret of his present popularity. The book will further have many curious novelties, interesting reminiscences, and criticisms.

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The Mayor and Corporation of Bath are about to place in the Pump Room a bust of Charles Dickens, the work of Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, F.S.A., and his gift. It has an old Sicilian marble pedestal, which will be adorned with bas-reliefs of the Bath scenes in *Pickwick*, and a suitable inscription. There is a bust by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald at Rochester in the Dickens Room of the Nun's House, and he has promised others to various Dickens towns. One of them is a statuette representing Boz in his habit as he lived at Gadshill.

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The cover design of the present number is a reproduction of that used on the original parts of *Sketches by Boz*. There was, at first, some difficulty connected with adopting it, but this happily has been overcome. Although out of chronological order, readers will be pleased to see Cruikshank's delightfully characteristic piece of work forming part of our series of covers. The April cover will bear the *Nickleby* design.

Mr. M. H. Spielmann, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Fellowship, in an interview with a representative of a provincial paper, spoke of the work the Fellowship is doing. "We all recognise, of course, the excellent work the Fellowship is doing," he said. "It has gone so far ahead that it has started a paper, *The Dickensian*. Dinners are given to poor children, and friends talk to them about Dickens, his love of humanity, the characteristics of his works, and so do a great deal not only to perpetuate his memory, but to arouse a love and knowledge of him in the minds of children." The work, added Mr. Spielmann, is beautifully and tenderly carried out.

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This is well said. But Mr. Spielmann's invidious distinction between the Boz Club and the Fellowship had a touch of patronage about it not altogether pleasing. "For the general worshipper there is the Fellowship," he said; "the Club is rather a tribute on the part of men of thought."

Dickens himself held the opinion that there was too much patronage in England. The Boz Club can afford to exist without boasting a superiority over the Fellowship, as Mr. H. F. Dickens himself said, in effect, at the Memorial Hall last month.

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Readers of *The Dickensian* will be interested to learn that the magazine has been an unqualified success. The first number had to be reprinted, and very few copies remain of the second edition, whilst the February number is almost as scarce. Many letters of congratulation have been received from the Vice-Presidents and other subscribers, and the Press generally have said very kind things about it. Messrs. Nelson and Sons, of New York, have taken an edition for America, where it is anticipated the sale will be fully as large as in this country.

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A conversazione will be held at the Memorial Hall on April 5th. A programme of music, etc., is being arranged. During the summer months a series of excursions to Dickens-land will be organised as in previous years, particulars of which will be duly announced.

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At one of the Fellowship concerts at Portsmouth recently, a new song entitled "Cap'en Cuttle," composed by Mr. Williams, conductor of the Empire Palace orchestra, was sung by Mr. Alexander Tucker. One of the verses runs as follows:—

"Let Dombeys have their gloomy wealth: what's money after all?
The wild waves talk of that to you as they did to little Paul;
Stout heart of oak ain't easy broke, in buzzum or in brig,
So waiting for a breeze astern, we'll dance a sailor's jig.

Chorus.

"Cap'en Cuttle is my name, England is my nation,
This 'ere is my dwelling-place, and blessed be creation.
Overhaul the book, and find this device is wrote,
Lay your head against the wind and thereof make a note."

THE SOCIAL INFLUENCE OF DICKENS

By HENRY F. DICKENS, K.C.,
PRESIDENT OF THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

WHEN the numerous branches of the Dickens Fellowship were commemorating the birthday of Charles Dickens last month, I took the liberty of sending a telegram to each of them in the following words:—

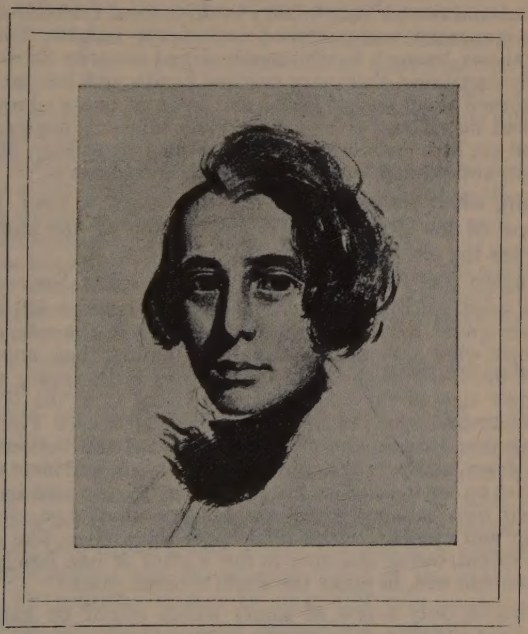
> "I send you hearty greetings. I ask you to remember the motto which was commended by my father to the members of the Birmingham Institute in 1869: 'Courage! persevere!'"

That is a motto which might well be adopted by the Fellowship itself. It was in the course of my father's inaugural address as President of the great Working Men's Institute that the words I have quoted were uttered. The speech itself was very simple, but singularly impressive. In the course of it he said this: "To the students of your industrial classes generally I have had it in my mind, first, to commend the short motto in two words—'Courage! persevere!' This is the motto of a friend and worker. Not because the eyes of Europe are upon them, for I don't in the least believe it; not because the eyes of even England are upon them, for I don't in the least believe it; not because their doings will be proclaimed with blast of trumpet at street-corners, for no such musical performance will take place; not because self-improvement is at all certain to lead to worldly success, but simply because it is good and right of itself, and because, being so, it does assuredly bring with it its own resources and its own rewards." He then commended to them the advice of Sydney Smith—"to have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things in order that you may avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything."

At the meeting of the Boz Club, which was held on 7th February last, a discussion took place on the subject of "Dickens as a Social Reformer." It has been suggested to me that it might be interesting to readers of this journal if I were to repeat here the views which I expressed on that occasion. Acting upon that suggestion, I propose briefly to discuss three questions: First, in what sense Dickens may be said to have been a social reformer; secondly, whether there were any particular reasons why he should have become one; and lastly, what was the secret of the success which he achieved in his endeavours to improve the condition of the poor.

Now in one sense, of course, Dickens was not a social reformer. He was not a social reformer in the sense of being an active politician. He never was a politician. When he was asked to go into Parliament his answer was that he thought he could do far more good outside the House in his own particular sphere. And can anyone doubt that he was right in this? His temperament was not in the least adapted to the strain and stress and worries of political life. As Forster tells us, he never made politics a study, and they were with him an instinct rather than a science; but the task he set his hand to was none the less that of a social reformer in the highest, the most comprehensive, sense of the word. That task was to open the eyes of the people to the

social condition of the poor, and to rouse a popular feeling in their behalf. He was ever the advocate of the poor. He felt bitterly for their sufferings. He had a singular power of finding beauty even among their squalid surroundings. By enlisting the sympathies of his readers for them, either by showing the best of them in a vein of humour or by a stern recital of their wrongs, he tried to get the people of this country to feel that which he felt so deeply himself. He gained their sympathy by winning their affection, and as their affection for himself increased, so their sympathy for those for whom he pleaded



CHARLES DICKENS IN 1837
From a drawing by Samuel Lawrence

According to the late F. G. Kitton this was evidently a trial sketch vigorously executed in chalk and slightly coloured. Another portrait by the same artist was done later in the same year.

grew in proportion. Thus the popular conscience was roused and the way was made clear for the statesman.

This constant purpose of his life, this never-flagging desire to improve the social condition of the people, can be traced through all his works. I will take a few instances of this.

That *The Chimes* was undoubtedly written for a purpose is shown most strikingly in a passage in Forster's *Life*:—

"He was bent on striking a blow for the poor," writes Forster. "They had always been his clients, they had never been forgotten in any of his books, but here nothing else was to be remembered. He had become, in short, terribly earnest in the matter. The hopelessness of any true solution to either political or social problems by the ordinary Downing Street methods had been startlingly impressed on him in Carlyle's writings,

and in the parliamentary talk of that day he had come to have as little faith for the putting down of any serious evil as in a then notorious city alderman's gabble for the putting down of suicide. He meant in *The Chimes* to try and convert society as he had converted Scrooge, by showing that its happiness rested on the same foundations as those of the individual, which are mercy and charity not less than justice."

Then, again, take a passage from *Nicholas Nickleby*, where Nicholas, communing with himself, thought:—

"How there were women and children in that one town, divided into classes, numbered and estimated as regularly as the noble families and folks of great degree, and reared from infancy to drive most criminal and dreadful trades; how ignorance was punished and never taught; how jail-doors gaped and gallows loomed, for thousands urged towards them by circumstances darkly curtaining their very cradles' heads, and but for which they might have earned their honest bread and lived in peace; how many died in soul, and had no chance of life; how much injustice, misery, and wrong there was, and yet how the world rolled on, from year to year, alike careless and indifferent, and no man seeking to remedy or redress it."

Then, again, when he described the sufferings of poor Jo, and the pathetic scene of his death, was he not preaching the same doctrine and striving for the same result?

Take yet again that fine passage from *Dombey and Son*:—

"Oh for a good spirit who would take the house-tops off, with a more potent and benignant hand than the lame demon in the tale, and show a Christian people what dark shapes issue from amidst their homes, to swell the retinue of the Destroying Angel as he moves forth among them! For only one night's view of the pale phantoms rising from the scenes of our too long neglect; and from the thick and sullen air where Vice and Fever propagate together, raining the tremendous social retributions which are ever pouring down, and ever coming thicker! Bright and blest the morning that should rise on such a night: for men, delayed no more by stumbling-blocks of their own making, which are but specks of dust upon the path between them and eternity, would then apply themselves, like creatures of one common origin, owing one duty to the Father of one family, and tending to one common end, to make the world a better place!"

These extracts, only a few of many which might be gathered from my father's books, will suffice to show how steadily he bore in mind this great purpose of his writings. Were there, then, any particular causes which impelled him to set his hand to such a work? I believe there were at least two—one a quality inherent in his nature, the other a lesson taught him in adversity. Forster said of him that his greatest gift was humour; this may be true, but I have always thought that the greatest source of his power was his intense human sympathy. That was one cause. There was another, and to my mind a still more striking one. In dealing with this question it is impossible to lose sight of or to ignore the bitterness of his own early childhood, when he was engaged in tying up blacking bottles in the Strand, and suffered that agony of soul which he so graphically described in a little bit of autobiography in Forster's *Life*. That this degradation of his early life left on him a lasting impression I can have no manner of doubt. To me it has always been a marvel that it did not sour his nature or estrange his sympathies. On the contrary, it seemed to soften his disposition, to make him more painfully conscious of the social inequalities around him, and more anxious to do what he could to remedy them.

Lastly, what was the reason of his extraordinary success? How was it he obtained that wonderful personal affection of his readers without which his efforts would have been in vain? The extent of that feeling among all classes was most remarkable, and is well known; but there are three little stories I should like to tell, to show in various ways how strong that feeling was. A friend of mine told me just after my father died he happened to be in a tobacconist's shop, when a labouring man walked in, ordered his screw of tobacco, and throwing his money on the counter, said, "We have lost our best friend."

I took a cab about the time of my father's funeral, and after I had paid the cabman his fare he said, "Oh, Mr. Dickens, your father did a great deal for us poor people; we cabbies hoped he was going to give us a turn next." What the cabby thought he was going to do for them I have not nor had I then the remotest idea; but this at least showed the faith that was in him.

The finest story of all was this. Only a few months before his death he received a letter from a gentleman to the following effect:—

"I began my life as a common workman, in a timber-yard. I was made foreman, then manager; I was taken into partnership. My partner is dead, and I am now left sole proprietor of a large business. I am convinced that the whole of my success in life has been due to the influence exercised upon me by your books, and I cannot come into this large fortune without trying to show you in some way what I feel."

I doubt whether anything in his life ever gave my father more real pleasure than did this simple and genuine tribute.

One reason for the extraordinary power my father had over his readers was his extreme earnestness. "Do everything at your best," he used to say to me. "I can honestly say that I have taken as great pains with the smallest things I ever did in my life as with the biggest." Those who saw my father playing a simple game, and throwing his whole heart and soul into it like a boy, would tell you how true this was.

Yet another reason was his intense belief in the reality of his own creations. To a young author he said, "If you want your public to believe in what you do, you must believe in it yourself. So much is this the case with me that when I am describing a scene I can as distinctly see the people I am describing as I can see you now."

It was also due to his power of communicating to others the force of his own convictions, and lastly to that remarkable personal magnetism which can only be appreciated fully by those who knew him best.

The extent of Dickens's success as a social reformer is known to all of us. I should like to recall in Dickens's own words the measure of his aspirations. The story is told by Forster. It was after Dickens's return from Venice upon the completion of *The Chimes*.

"When we met at its close," writes Forster, "he was fresh from Venice, which had impressed him as the wonder and the new sensation of the world; but well do I remember how high above it all arose the hope that filled his mind. When I saw these places," says Forster, quoting Dickens's own words, "I thought that to leave one's hand upon the time, lastingly upon the time, with one tender touch for the mass of toiling people that nothing could obliterate, would be to lift oneself above the dust of all the Doges in their graves, and to stand upon a giant's staircase which Samson could not overthrow."

"SKETCHES BY BOZ"

A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE BY B. W. MATZ

APART from the extreme interest of Dickens's first book as presenting a series of his earliest writings, it has a curious bibliographical interest. Dickens, in the preface which appears in all current editions of the work, speaks in a somewhat disparaging tone of the value of his sketches and tales. But time has shown that he was not altogether justified in his feeling towards his early work, for therein are revealed the seeds of his genius and many indications of the phases of the greatness of his mind which were so developed in his later books. Some of his finest characteristics are to be found in the sketches, and show, even at that time, how he had stored up in his brain what he had seen with his eyes, how wonderfully those eyes saw life and character, and how remarkably the eyes and mind worked together in presenting them in animated prose. And it will be noticed that throughout the book there is that unostentatious teaching, that desire to set wrongs right, which later earned him the sobriquet of Social Reformer.

It was whilst performing the duties of a reporter that Dickens commenced to pen these sketches. The story of how he posted his first MS. of "A Dinner at Poplar Walk," and the effect it had on him when it was published, is too well known to bear reiteration here. The title of this MS. was originally called "A Sunday Out of Town," and when it appeared in the collection it was again altered to "Mr. Minns and his Cousin." It appeared in the *Monthly Magazine* in December, 1833, to which periodical Dickens contributed pretty regularly until February, 1835. When the *Evening Chronicle* was started as the evening edition of the *Morning Chronicle*, Dickens was invited to contribute literary articles to its pages, and a series bearing the pseudonym of "Boz," under the general heading "Sketches of London," began to appear January 31st, 1835, and continued up to August 20th of the same year. From September 27th, 1835, to January 17th, 1836, Dickens contributed a further series under the general title of "Scenes and Characters," signed "Tibbs," to *Bell's Life in London*, and then returned again to the *Chronicle*, where four more sketches were published from September 26th to October 26th, in both morning and evening editions of that paper.

In 1836 these sketches were published in two volumes under the title of *Sketches by Boz: Illustrative of Every-day Life and People*, with sixteen etchings by George Cruikshank. London: John Macrone. Only some of the articles referred to above were included, whilst eight others were specially written for the volumes. These were "Shops and their Tenants," "A Visit to Newgate," "Brokers' and Marine Store Shops," for volume one; and "The Black Veil," "Shabby-Genteel People," "The Great Winglebury Duel," "Omnibuses," "Sentiment," for the second volume. Owing to the great success of the venture, a second series appeared early in 1837, but dated 1836, with ten etchings by Cruikshank, by the same publisher. The sketches specially written for this volume were "Criminal Courts," "Our Next-Door Neighbours," "The Royal Patient," and "The Drunkard's Death." A second edition of this volume was shortly afterwards issued with two

new etchings by Cruikshank. By this time *Pickwick*, which Chapman and Hall were issuing, had become wonderfully popular in parts, and Macrone, the publisher of the Sketches, proposed to re-issue them in the same manner; but Dickens fearing that the simultaneous publication of three of his works—*Oliver Twist* was running in Bentley's *Miscellany* at the time and *Pickwick Papers* appearing in parts—would seriously affect his reputation. He therefore bought back, with the aid of Chapman and Hall, the copyright of the sketches for £2,250, Macrone having only paid him £400 for them, and accordingly was

THE FREE AND EASY

Drawn by George Cruikshank for the original edition of *Sketches by Boz*, and afterwards cancelled

able to defer publication in parts until the last part of *Pickwick* appeared, when was issued the first of *Sketches by Boz*, with the delightful design by Cruikshank on pink covers. For this serial issue all the etchings by Cruikshank were re-etched in a larger size to suit the serial issue, except "The Free and Easy," which was cancelled, and has only been used in some recent editions of Messrs. Chapman and Hall's. Cruikshank also did thirteen new etchings for the serial issue, which when completed appeared in volume form in 1839 with "The Tuggs's at Ramsgate," a story from the Library of Fiction, added. There were fifty-six sketches in all, arranged under four headings, "Our Parish," "Scenes," "Characters," "Tales," and forty etchings by Cruikshank. All subsequent editions of the book are based upon this one.

"HOMO SUM. . . ."*

IT would be difficult to imagine a more striking proof of the abiding place held by Charles Dickens in the hearts of his countrymen than was afforded by the remarkable gathering at the Savoy Hotel last evening. Literature and art, the drama and the law, were all powerfully represented among the large party over which Lord James of Hereford presided, with the American Ambassador on his right hand, and the Lord Chancellor on his left. All this varied assortment of British brains had come together on the common ground of profound admiration for the work of the great novelist, an affection for the memory *tam cari capitis*. It used to be the fashion some years ago to say that the popularity of Dickens was on the wane, that the rising generation did not read him. That, we are convinced, was never true—indeed, the statistics of publishers have conclusively disproved the assertion; but if proof were wanted of the abiding and, we may surely say, the growing influence of Dickens, it could be discerned in the success of the two associations recently founded in his honour—the Dickens Fellowship and the Boz Club. Undoubtedly, however, public opinion has undergone a change during the five-and-thirty years which have elapsed since that June morning when, as it was said, men opening their newspapers on their way to business burst into sudden tears when they read that Charles Dickens was dead, when all over the English-speaking world his death was felt as a personal loss by millions to whom it seemed, to use the words of Scott about the death of Byron, "as if the sun had gone out." A change there has been on the part of the public analogous to that which goes on in the mind of many of the individual readers of Dickens. The boy who reads *Pickwick* for the first time does not—he cannot—criticise; but the boy, in time, becomes a Superior Person, and therewith conscious of certain very obvious defects in Dickens's work; he cannot weep over his pathos; he finds his portraiture too closely akin to caricature. But there is a third stage, that in which the reader, while not blind to the novelist's weaknesses, is more alive than ever to his tremendous strength, and is profoundly convinced that here one is face to face with genius which will live with the English tongue. So, in a sense, it has been with the public. Who could criticise while that stream of marvellous creation was flowing from the master's pen? It was only when Dickens had worked himself to death, when the public realised that he had taken the key to the *Mystery of Edwin Drood* with him into the darkness of the supreme Mystery, that the critical spirit really awoke. Now, as the Dickens Fellowship and the Boz Club indicate, men have got past the stage of criticism, and have settled down to a mature and fixed admiration which will only wane when Macaulay's New Zealander surveys the ruins of London town.

Why is it, one may naturally ask, that the art and the memory of Dickens bring men together in bonds of fellowship which are not created by the work or the personality of other novelists? Why is Dickens a name to conjure with when other names as great as his are

* The *Pall Mall Gazette* leader, February 8th, 1905.

not? Why, for instance, is there not a Thackeray Fellowship in honour of Dickens's great contemporary? The answer, we believe, is to be found in Dickens's intense humanity. "Homo sum: humani nihil a me alienum puto" might surely have been this man's motto. It is his burning sympathy with his fellow-men, his scorn of privilege, his hatred of wrong in all its forms, his exquisite tenderness to human weakness, his instinctive love for the disinherited of this world, his simple, robust, objective outlook upon life that make him the friend of all sorts and conditions of men. Lord James told the Boz Club that Dickens was "no party politician." Lord Halsbury denied that, and declared him to be "a Liberal politician verging on Radicalism." The truth, surely, is that Dickens was a Radical in the sense in which Radicalism must be the creed of every just and generous soul—and no more. His Radicalism is the common heritage of all good men, and the social reforms for which he battled are those which every right-minded man accepts as just and necessary. The zeal for social reform, however, was, with him, but the inevitable outcome of his nature, an integral portion of his theory of life. Had he been a social reformer and no more, the memory of him would not be the living thing it is to-day. The essence of Dickens's art is its humanity, it is the supreme expression in English literature—perhaps in all literature—of the doctrine that we are "all members one of another," and that is why his works are, more than those of any other writer, "understanded of the people." His books are, as Mr. Choate said, last evening, "nearer and dearer to the heart of humanity" to-day than when they first appeared, because they are so human, because we may call him, as Browning has finely called Euripides—

> "... the human, with his droppings of warm tears,
> And his touches of things common till they rose unto the spheres."

For Dickens's theme was everyday life in this workaday world: he was the great prose poet of humanity.

POETICAL TRIBUTES TO CHARLES DICKENS

III

NOT merely thine the tribute praise,
Which greets an Author's progress here;
Not merely thine the fabled bays,
Whose verdure brightens his career.
Thine the pure triumph to have taught
Thy brother man a gentle part;
In every line a fervent thought,
Which gushes from thy generous heart.
For thine are words which rouse up all
The dormant good among us found,
Like drops which from a fountain fall,
To bless and fertilise the ground.

HON. MRS. NORTON.

From the *English Bijou Almanack* for 1842.

MR. F. G. KITTON'S LAST BOOK*

By J. W. T. LEY

THERE can be no two opinions in regard to this last work of F. G. Kitton. It must take its place as the most valuable book dealing with this particular phase of Dickens lore. There is that attention to detail, and that obvious knowledge of the subject, which were so characteristic of the author, and though the literary merit may not be high, that consideration is altogether outweighed by the palpable love and enthusiasm for the novelist and his books. To all Dickensians, but especially to those who had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Kitton, the introduction which Mr. Arthur Waugh contributes to the book is full of interest: it is a valuable and touching "appreciation" of one who was, as Mr. Waugh says, not only a sincere and zealous student, but a true and generous man. It is not long, but its writer has said exactly the right thing in exactly the right way. Mr. Kitton, as all the world knows, was probably the best authority on Dickensiana of his time, but he was more than that, and it is pleasing to see that Mr. Waugh writes especially of the man himself, of his kindness of heart, of the value of his friendship. Anyone who knew him knows how broad-minded, generous, and kind-hearted he was. Nothing was too much trouble for him to do, if by doing it he could assist in the slightest degree anyone who needed assistance. Could there be more apt words than these of Mr. Waugh's? "For, when other shifting recollections of Frederic Kitton fade away—accidents of a common interest, chances of a brief and busy acquaintanceship—the impression that remains, and will always remain with those who knew him, is the haunting impression of a sweet and winning simplicity, an absolute sincerity of life and word, that knew no use for the thing he said, but that it should be the thing he thought, and that never (so it seemed) thought anything of man, woman, or child, but what was kind and Christian and noble-hearted. . . . He knew the secret of life. . . . He lived for others, and in their memory he will survive so long as earthly recollections and earthly examples return to encourage and inspire."

The book is full of interest. It is the very antithesis of a mere catalogue of places mentioned in Dickens's books, and futile speculation as to the identity of houses, etc. Following David Copperfield's example, and beginning at the beginning, the author deals with the novelist's birthplace, and then proceeds to deal straightway with Portsmouth's and Chatham's associations, both in regard to Dickens himself and in regard to his books. The story of the few years of Dickens's early boyhood spent in these towns is told in a chatty and interesting way, and the author shows how the memories of those days—of persons, places, and incidents—were drawn upon and made use of in after life. Dickens's boyhood and youth in London are dealt with in the same way, as are his later life in the Metropolis and his life in and associations with Rochester and Gadshill. His visits to the West country, to Southern England, to East Anglia, to the North of England and Scotland, and to the Midlands, are also treated in their places, but the most

* *The Dickens Country* (the Pilgrimage Series). By Frederic G. Kitton. London: Adam and Charles Black, 6s.

interesting chapter is that headed "In Dickens Land." It is a delightful record of the novelist's associations with Kent, which is, of course, the very heart of Dickens-land. "Boz" had lifelong associations with the county. He lived as a child in Chatham, and he died at Gadshill. He spent his honeymoon at Chalk, he enjoyed many a happy holiday at Broadstairs, or at Folkestone, and in book after book we find references to these places, as well as to Dover, Canterbury, Maidstone, etc. He loved the county—"I have many happy recollections connected with Kent, and am scarcely less interested in it than if I had been a Kentish man bred and born, and had resided in the county all my life." But space does not allow me to treat of this book as I should like to do. I can do no more than give a general idea of its scheme, and recommend it to anyone who is interested in Dickens and his books. It only remains to be said that the book contains fifty full-page charming illustrations, mostly from photographs by Mr. T. W. Tyrrell.

SYNOPSES OF DICKENS *

THIS little book is further proof, if proof were needed, that Dickens and his writings appeal to American readers and students to-day as conscientiously and whole-heartedly as they do to the nation which is so justly proud of such a heritage.

Although there exists a *Dickens Dictionary* larger and more elaborate in scope than Mr. McSpadden's volume, there has been a manifest need for a small guide to Dickens's novels and characters. *The Synopses of Dickens's Novels* was compiled and first saw the light in America, where its usefulness has been well tested. The plan of it is as follows:—A chronological list of the novels is succeeded by a brief outline study of each novel, its date, first appearance, scene, time, personages and plot, the chief threads of which are woven into a brief story. At the end of the work is a complete index to the characters in the various books.

The author of the book makes a slight mistake in stating that part of the scene of *Bleak House* is laid in Herefordshire. It should be, of course, Hertfordshire. The house itself is situated near St. Albans. Whilst he refers to Gliddery, the pot-boy at the "Six Jolly Fellowship Porters" in *Our Mutual Friend*, as Glibbery.

MR. PICKWICK'S REVIEW †

THERE have been many small pictures representing the characters from the works of Dickens grouped together, but one of the most satisfactory is that by S. Eytinge, jun., which originally appeared in an American journal. It represents Mr. Pickwick being introduced to the chief characters in Dickens's books by Sam Weller. Mr. Pickwick is seated in a chair with Sam standing by his side, pointing out to him the various characters as they file past in the form of a review. This picture is now to be obtained in a large size, thus making it easy to recognise each individual. The engraving is coloured by hand and suitable for framing.

* *Synopses of Dickens's Novels*. By J. Walker McSpadden. London: Chapman and Hall, 2*s*. 6*d*. net.

† Messrs. Suckling and Co., 13, Garrick Street, Covent Garden, W.C., 10*s*. net.

URIAH HEEP'S HOUSE AT CANTERBURY

THE reputed home of Uriah Heep and his mother, which is situated in North Lane, Canterbury, will soon be done away with to make room for some modern buildings. Whether or not this is the house Dickens had in his mind when he gave our 'umble friend a habitation,

THE HOUSE AT CANTERBURY KNOWN AS THE ABODE OF URIAH HEEP
From a photograph by Mr. T. W. Tyrrell

it certainly coincides pretty faithfully with his description in *David Copperfield* when little David paid a visit to the Heeps. Dickensian landmarks in Canterbury are really very difficult to discover, but this house as the abode of Uriah Heep has been generally accepted by topographers as authentic.

Mr. Robert Allbut, that most enthusiastic and painstaking identifier of scenes and places of the novels, was the first, we believe, to locate the house in his *Rambles in Dickens-land*, a book which is invaluable of its kind, and the one which has been the genesis of many others.

CALENDAR OF DICKENS QUOTATIONS

COMPILED BY "OLD FLEET"

Mar. 1.—"Our affections, however laudable, in this transitory world, should never master us; we should guide them."—*Edwin Drood*—The Dean.

Mar. 2.—"If ever you come—or even if ever you don't come—to a desert place, use your eyes and your spy-glass well; for the smallest thing you see may prove of use to you, and may have some information or some meaning in it."—*A Message from the Sea*—Captain Jorgan.

Mar. 3.—"What never ran smooth yet can hardly be expected to change its character for us; so we must take it as we find it, and fashion it into the very best shape we can, by patience and good-humour."—*Martin Chuzzlewit*—Tom Pinch.

Mar. 4.—"I confess I have yet to learn that a lesson of the purest good may not be drawn from the vilest evil."—Preface to *Oliver Twist* (Third Edition).

Mar. 5.—"There are chords in the human heart—strange, varying strings—which are only struck by accident; which will remain mute and senseless to appeals the most passionate and earnest, and respond at last to the slightest casual touch."—*Old Curiosity Shop.*

Mar. 6.—"And setting all the good of the world against the evil, he came to the conclusion that it was a very decent and respectable sort of world after all."—*Pickwick Papers.*

Mar. 7.—"Though home is a name, a word, it is a strong one; stronger than magician ever spoke, or spirit answered to, in strongest conjuration."—*Martin Chuzzlewit.*

Mar. 8.—"When we shall gather grapes from thorns, and figs from thistles; when fields of grain shall spring up from the offal in the byeways of our wicked cities, and roses bloom in the fat churchyards that they cherish—then we may look for natural humanity."—*Dombey and Son.*

Mar. 9.—"Mere empty-headed conceit excites our pity, but ostentatious hypocrisy awakens our disgust."—*Sketches of Young Couples.*

Mar. 10.—"Most men will be found sufficiently true to themselves to be true to an old idea. It is no proof of an inconstant mind, but exactly the opposite, when the idea will not bear comparison with the reality, and the contrast is a fatal shock to it."—*Little Dorrit.*

Mar. 11.—"There is scarcely a sin in the world that is in my eyes such a crying one as ingratitude."—*Martin Chuzzlewit*—Tom Pinch.

Mar. 12.—"There's one thing you may be sure of, namely, that lies is lies. However they come—they didn't ought to come, and they come from the father of lies, and work round to the same."—*Great Expectations*—Joe Gargery.

Mar. 13.—"I won't go so far as to say that I've seen waxwork quite like life, but I've most certainly seen some life that was exactly like waxwork."—*Old Curiosity Shop*—Mrs. Jarley.

Mar. 14.—"Life's a riddle; a most infernally hard riddle to guess."—*Martin Chuzzlewit*—Montague Tigg.

Mar. 15.—"There is little wisdom in knowing that every man must be up and doing, and that all mankind are made dependent on one another."—*Tom Tiddler's Ground*—The Traveller.

Mar. 16.—"Those men of the world who go through it in armour, defend themselves from quite as much good as evil."—*Old Curiosity Shop.*

Mar. 17.—"There can be no disparity in marriage like unsuitability of mind and purpose."—*David Copperfield*—Mrs. Strong.

Mar. 18.—"O you labouring men! How seldom do we ever hear of you except in connection with some trouble!"—*Nobody's Story.*

Mar. 19.—"It has been remarked by a certain (or an uncertain) philosopher, that the world knows nothing of its greatest men. . . . He might have put it, that while the world knows something of them that apparently go in and win, it knows nothing of them that really go in and don't win."—*Somebody's Luggage.*

Mar. 20.—"He saw that men who worked hard, and earned their scanty bread with lives of labour, were cheerful and happy."—*Pickwick Papers.*

Mar. 21.—"Verily, verily, travellers have seen many monstrous idols in many countries; but no human eyes have ever seen more daring, gross, and shocking images of the Divine nature, than we creatures of the dust make in our own likenesses, of our own bad passions."—*Little Dorrit.*

Mar. 22.—"Are we quite sure that we in England have not formed our ideas of the 'station' of working people from accustoming ourselves to the contemplation of that class as they are, not as they might be?"—*American Notes.*

Mar. 23.—"Men who look on nature, and their fellow-men, and say that all is dark and gloomy, are in the right; but the colours are reflections of their own jaundiced eyes and hearts. The real hues are delicate, and need a clearer vision."—*Oliver Twist.*

Mar. 24.—"I make no protestations—who does, who means them?"—*Our Mutual Friend*—Eugene Wrayburn.

Mar. 25.—"Regrets are the natural property of grey hairs."—*Martin Chuzzlewit*—Martin Chuzzlewit, sen.

Mar. 26.—"O there are days in this life worth life and worth death."—*Our Mutual Friend.*

Mar. 27.—"When a man is in a violent hurry to get on, and has a specific object in view, the attainment of which depends on the completion of his journey, the difficulties which interpose themselves in his way appear not only to be innumerable, but to be called into existence especially for the occasion."—*Sketches by Boz.*

Mar. 28.—"All other swindlers upon earth are nothing to the self-swindler."—*Great Expectations.*

Mar. 29. "There's a charm in spring, when ev'rything
Is bursting from the ground;
When pleasant show'rs bring forth the flowers,
And all is life around."
—*The Village Coquettes*—Squire Norton.

Mar. 30.—"I vow to God that I think the parrots of Society are more intolerable than its birds of prey."—*Letter to Douglas Jerrold.*

Mar. 31.—"We all change, but that's with Time; Time does his work honestly, and I don't mind him. A fig for Time! Use him well, and he's a hearty fellow, and scorns to have you at a disadvantage."—*Barnaby Rudge*—Gabriel Varden.

DICKENS: THE "GLORIFIED REPORTER."

THE following letter appeared in the *Brighton Herald* of February 11th, as a comment on one in the previous issue from Mr. Colin Covell, secretary of the Brighton branch of the Fellowship:—

"SIR,—I saw in your last week's issue a letter on the Dickens Fellowship, of which there is a Brighton branch. With the works of charity of such a society one must needs be in accord. At the same time, one asks the reason for its existence. A Browning Society we can understand; a society for the study of George Eliot or Meredith might furnish its *raison d'être.* But for this study of Dickens!—the idea is too absurd, and is rather suggestive of the Pickwick Club, or the learned Mudfog Association.

"The 'greatest novelist of last century' indeed! Surely a writer the other day gave Dickens the highest meed of praise of which he was worthy when he calls him a 'glorified newspaper reporter.' As a novelist he is by no means a success, although he possessed a surpassing accuracy of observation and power of minute description. Lacking those qualities so necessary to an artist in fiction, capacity of telling a story, insight into human nature, power of pathos and humour, the works of Dickens fail to attract readers of cultivated taste, and are only admired by the few with whom caricature and grotesqueness are a merit and the ugly and wonderful a delight.

"One may occasionally take up one of the best works of Dickens, but a very little of him goes a very long way, and what with pages of useless description, long-drawn-out sentiment, and minute portraiture of characters utterly alien to the story he is telling, one is often in danger of letting the book fall from one's hands, so insufferably boring is he to perpetuate whose memory, forsooth, the Dickens Club exists!

"One can only say, in conclusion, that the handful of adoring admirers calling itself the Dickens Fellowship form, as it were, the only breakwater against the coming tide of opinion which threatens to make his reputation a mere memory in the oblivion of the things which have been.—Yours, etc.

"SCROGS."

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

LONDON

THE Birthday celebration held at the Memorial Hall on February 8th was a great success in every way. The huge audience of some 1,500 members and friends listened to the speeches with rapt attention and enthusiasm, and thoroughly appreciated the recitals and other items of the programme. The President delivered a very interesting speech, which is printed elsewhere in this number. He prefaced his remarks with details showing how the Fellowship had grown and the work it had done. Numerous telegrams and letters were received from the various branches. Later in the evening Mr. Dickens gave a recital of "Mr. Chops the Dwarf" with remarkable effect, to the great delight of all present.

Canon Benham gave some delightful reminiscences of his early reading of Dickens and of the various imitations of the works which were poured out from the press in those days.

Mr. Harry Furniss concluded a very amusing speech by commending the Fellowship for the educational work it was doing in inspiring the young to read the works of the greatest writer of fiction that England has produced. Mr. Arthur A'Beckett also addressed the meeting. Mr. Arthur Hayes and Mr. Frank Speaight gave recitals of "The Passing of Smike" and "The Pickwick Shooting Party" respectively. Mr. Hayes came especially from Nottingham, where his elocutionary powers are well known, and greatly delighted the audience. Mr. Speaight is too well known for more to be said than that he was in his usual good form. The programme was brought to a close by Mr. Bransby Williams, who gave character representations of Montague Tigg, Uriah Heep, Mr. Micawber, Nell's Grandfather, and Daniel Peggotty. Mr. Williams never acted better, and at the conclusion of his performance he received a remarkable ovation. His Uriah Heep is still a finished and wonderful piece of acting, whilst his latest character, Old Peggotty, is in every way artistic and convincing, and made a singular impression upon the audience.

NEEDLEWORK AND CHARITABLE GUILD

DURING the last month coals, food, clothing, books, and toys were distributed, and in many cases sick persons were visited and read to. To give a ray of brightness to some old folk who have scarcely enough to keep body and soul together, the Guild is arranging a meat tea at Tottenham for 100 poor men and women over 60 years of age. This will probably be at the end of the Easter holidays. The services of a few gentlemen to act as carvers will be much appreciated.

The Guild will also hold a Social Gathering at St. Bride's Institute early in May ; a dance will be arranged during the evening. Tickets will shortly be on sale. It is hoped that members and friends will heartily support this function, which is in aid of the funds.

The Mayoress of Lewisham (Mrs. White) has of late taken a kindly and active part in the work of the Blackheath, Lee, and Lewisham branch of the Guild. She has personally verified many cases, visited and distributed clothing to those in need. This has been of great assistance to the branch. The Hon. Secretary of the Guild would be glad if others would follow Mrs. White's good example.

DINNERS TO POOR CHILDREN

On the 18th of February a dinner was given to 350 children at St. John's Parish Hall, Vartry Road, Stamford Hill. The dinner was composed of hot meat, vegetables, pudding, lemonade, and an orange on leaving. After the dinner the Fairy Tale Society entertained the company by a recital of the story of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," introducing all the children's songs of our childhood, in which all joined. The children very much enjoyed the dinner and entertainment.

On the 21st February a similar dinner was given to 400 children at "The Old Mahogany Bar," Wellclose Square, a densely crowded, dirty, close locality. The children came in their best clothes, many having their faces washed; but this was the first dinner to which some came with naked feet. This is a district sadly in need of help and sympathetic visiting. The Fairy Tale Society again assisted by entertaining the children, and the Fellowship is much indebted to Mr. Curzon and his family for their kindness.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

On February 7th 650 children were invited to the Southsea Pier Pavilion, to "share in what our great Creator formed them to enjoy." The arrangements were excellent, and as the *Portsmouth Times* put it, Dickens the Writer was forgotten on this occasion, and Dickens the Man, Dickens the Lover of the Little Ones, was remembered. The youngsters were given a splendid feed. After tea there were one or two brief speeches. Lord Portsmouth said with pride that he was a disciple of Dickens, and he thought, on such an occasion as that, that such work and such an organisation as the Fellowship was most truly in consonance with the spirit of kindly charity which breathed from every page of Dickens's writings.

Then came a delightful entertainment.

February 20th, at the Albert Hall, was the fourth "members' night," and a large gathering of Fellows of both sexes enjoyed a long programme of music and dramatic recital arranged by Mrs. Maggs. The Fellowship was honoured with the presence of Mr. Edwin Greene, the popular composer, who is a member of the branch, and who accompanied his songs, which were rendered with rare taste and felicity of expression by Miss Bayley-Harris, Mr. J. H. Squire, brother of the composer, playing the 'cello obligato. There were also songs by Mr. R. Wittick and by Miss Gertrude Miller.

From 7.30 to 8 Master Victor Spanner gave a piano recital, including a "Dickens Fellowship Fantasia," arranged by himself, and subsequently with the touch of the natural artist played minuets by Paderewski and Mozart. The other soloist was Miss Queenie Smith, a little dot of six summers or so.

The dramatists were Mrs. C. Foran, the Rev. David Barron, and the Hon. Sec., Mr. Percy Maggs, who recited effectively "The Gargerys," "The British Lion" (*Martin Chuzzlewit*), and "Pickwick in the Police Court" respectively.

ROCHESTER BRANCH

The Dickens birthday celebration took place in the Castle Hall on February 9th, Mr. Frank Speaight giving a recital of *David Copperfield* in six chapters. Mr. Speaight was in splendid form, and he achieved an absolutely complete success. Mr. Charles Tuff, M.P., presided over a crowded attendance. Early in the month twenty-six trees were planted as a part of the scheme for an avenue as a memorial to the novelist on the roadside in the direction from Strood to Gadshill. Others will be added as funds permit.

YORK BRANCH

On February 7th this branch entertained about 110 of the poorest children of the city in the Merchants' Hall, Fossgate. A splendid entertainment was provided, after tea, by members of the branch and other kind helpers. On the following day the branch further celebrated the anniversary of the birth of the novelist by a reunion in the same hall. The Sheriff of York, Alderman W. Bentley, was in the chair, and asked them to remember that Dickens's wish was, "Keep my memory green," and in such celebrations as that they were helping to give an answer to his prayer. Mr. G. F. Furniss, of Leeds, remarked that to Dickens they were indebted to a great extent for the present liberal treatment that was given to children of all ranks and grades of society. Mr. S. A. Hirst and the Rev. E. L. Perry also spoke. A capital musical programme was gone through during the evening.

On the 16th Mr. G. H. Stuart delivered a paper on "Dickens as a Humanist." He spoke in eloquent terms of this phase of Dickens's genius.

A very interesting paper was also given at the Merchants' Hall, Fossgate, on February 22nd, by Mr. Frank Kidson, Secretary of the Leeds branch, on "The Minor Writings of Charles Dickens." Beginning with the schoolboy effort of *Misnar*, Mr. Kidson dealt with most of the smaller pieces of the novelist, *Sketches by Boz*, the plays, the shorter Christmas stories, the contributions to *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*, the *Uncommercial* papers. He pointed out that Dickens's earliest instinct was the analysis of character, and that as far back as 1836 he was a social reformer, as the pamphlet *Sunday under Three Heads* testifies.

NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

The Dickens birthday celebration at Nottingham took place at the Victoria Hotel on February 7th. The proceedings commenced with a dinner, and afterwards there were songs and speeches. The Rev. H. T. Hayman was in the chair and gave "The Memory of Dickens" in a stirring speech, dwelling on the many benefits civilisation had received at the hands of the novelist through his books. He also touched upon Dickens's power to make the reader laugh and cry in turn. Other speeches were given by Mr. S. H. Edwards, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. H. Jarvis, Mr. F. Marshall, and Mr. T. F. Davies. On the 14th an instructive chat at the Willoughby Street Library, on the chief characteristic of Dickens and his writings, was very much enjoyed. Mr. Leo Beach, the Treasurer, was the lecturer.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS BRANCH

On February 7th this branch celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of "Our Mutual Friend" with an entertainment to a large number of children. The Holy Trinity Hall, Priory Street, was crowded, and the programme, entirely contributed to by boy and girl members of the Fellowship, was received with the wildest enthusiasm. The proceeds were devoted to the Children's Boot Fund, an object which would have warmly appealed to Dickens himself. The whole entertainment was admirable, and enjoyed to the full.

MARSHALL (MICHIGAN) BRANCH

On February 7th the Dickens Club celebrated the birthday of Charles Dickens at the home of Mrs. John Powell. After the members of the Club had assembled, a short literary programme was listened to, consisting of readings from Dickens, grave and gay, a very enjoyable paper by Miss Mitchell, "A Glimpse of Dickens's Home-life and the Tenderness of his Character," and a short sketch of Dickens's love for animals. At the conclusion of the programme the Club repaired to the dining-room, where the table was handsomely spread, the seats of the different members being indicated by place-cards and English flags, together with an appropriate quotation from Dickens's works.

WINNIPEG BRANCH

A FULL report has reached us of the doings of the above branch since its inauguration in October of last year. Fortnightly meetings have been held, at which discussions and lectures have formed the programme. On January 31st Professor S. J. Will, of Manitoba College, delivered a lecture on "The Evolution of Dickens." His treatment was clear, vivid, and forceful. He said, "Outside of Shakespeare's, there are probably no books which enjoy the popularity of Dickens's. Into the busy, selling, hammering world he comes as a great source of happiness. His works do not suffer by comparison. They shine with a lustre of their own." The lecturer gave extracts to illustrate his various points of eulogy.

On February 7th the anniversary of the birthday of Dickens was celebrated by a dinner. Dr. Woollard, President of the branch, presided. Many toasts were proposed, the chief being that of "The Dickens Fellowship," by the Rev. J. S. Vallalley. In a very humorous speech he dwelt upon the advantages of the society, the good it was doing, and the instruction to be obtained from such a society. Dr. Woollard responded in a happy speech. He said that the branch had come not only to stay, but to grow larger in its membership and in its sphere of influence for good amongst fellow-creatures. Other speeches were made, including one by Mr. Stapleton, the Secretary of the branch, on behalf of the officers, who, he said, were all proud to be officers of the Fellowship, which seeks to spread the teachings of the great novelist by acts of love to those who are downfallen. They meant to make the branch one that they could be genuinely proud of, and "one which would prove to the folks in the old country that Dickens is appreciated just as much in this country as at home."

Mr. Stapleton sends a message to members that a warm welcome awaits them if they go to Canada, and that he would be pleased to give any information regarding the resources of the country to any who contemplated going to the colony.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

A CONVERSAZIONE was held at the Cutlers' Hall on the 8th of February. Mr. R. W Dodsworth presided over a large gathering, but the President of the branch, Councillor John Derry, attended late in the evening. A first-class programme was provided, including a recital, "Copperfield's First Dissipation," by Mr. C. R. Smith ; sketch from *Nicholas Nickleby*, by Miss C. Ott, Miss and D. Wood ; a series of character impersonations—Mr. Micawber, Bill Sikes, Uriah Heep, Sydney Carton, and Serjeant Buzfuz—by Mr. H. Kent Marple, and other musical recitals. There was a capital attendance of members at the monthly meeting held on the 17th in the Cutlers' Hall. Mr. R. W. Dodsworth presided. Lively and picturesque descriptions by contemporary writers of the public reading by Dickens at Peterborough, and of a similar appearance some years later, were read by Mr. Victor F. J. Tlack, Vice - Consul for Austria - Hungary. Mr. G. W. Parker read "Mr. Weller's Watch," from *Master Humphrey's Clock*, and Mr. J. H. Wild also contributed a paper upon "The Inns of Dickens." Mrs. John Derry and Mr. Alfred Beckett have been elected Vice-Presidents of the branch, which now comes second in point of strength.

A large and keenly appreciative audience assembled at the Montgomery Hall on February 28th to hear Mr. Frank Speaight in his recital of *Pickwick Papers*. There were nearly 700 present, who were soon completely under the spell of, and infected with, the matchless humour of the master as revealed by Mr. Speaight, who was in splendid form and delighted everyone. The President, Councillor J. Derry, was in the chair, and the Lord Mayor among the audience.

BLACKHEATH, LEE, AND LEWISHAM BRANCH

"CHARACTER Studies from David Copperfield" was the subject of the lecture delivered by the Rev. E. L. C. Clapton at the Obelisk Hall on February 17th. Mr. J. W. Cleland, L.C.C., presided. In the course of the lecture Mr. Clapton touched upon almost every character, great and small, which goes to the making of one of the greatest works of fiction in our language. He dealt with each in turn, indicating its worthiness and place in the story. "With few exceptions," he said, "Dickens perceived the latent good in men and women, and showed that it could be brought out by those who possess the sympathy that is engendered by a love of humanity." The lecturer considered Agnes the best character in the book: "the sweetest and noblest specimen of true womanhood ever described in fiction." Mr. Clapton illustrated his subject by frequent quotations from the novel. During the evening Mr. A. M. Barnard recited two scenes from the book.

BRIXTON BRANCH

ON February 6th a meeting of this branch was held at the Ladies' Parlour, Brixton Independent Church, the chair being taken by Mr. S. R. Marriott. Mr. J. S. Baines gave an admirable recital of the story of "Boots at the Holly Tree Inn." An enjoyable entertainment was concluded by a short address from the Secretary, reminiscent of a lecture given by Mr. George Grossmith, sen., forty years ago, on *Sketches by Boz*. A meeting was held on February 27th at the usual place of assembly, Mr. R. Allbut (Secretary) in the chair. The evening's entertainment was arranged by Mr. J. Skeen, and eventuated in a very successful occasion. Mr. J. Skeen read a paper on "Dickens's Lawyers," which proved an able and discriminating review of the many characters in the legal profession portrayed by the master from *Pickwick* to *Edwin Drood*. Illustrative readings were selected. This was followed by a second paper of excellent quality—also illustrated—on the same subject, given by Mr. W. H. Skeen. A short discussion ensued, Messrs. Baines, Marriott, and Block taking part. Miss L. Skeen gave a recital, "Good-bye, Rosebud," rendered in charming and easy style. It was followed by an interesting reading by Miss Jennings from *Sketches by Boz*. The programme was concluded by Mr. J. Skeen, who gave a very enjoyable recital from *Martin Chuzzlewit* anent the final rupture of friendly relations between Sairey Gamp and Betsey Prig.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

THE Lord Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall was crowded with an audience of between three and four hundred on February 8th. The Lord Mayor presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Sir W. H. Bailey, President of the branch; Councillor Plummer, Messrs. George Milner, John Mortimer, and John Harwood, Vice-Presidents; Mr. W. H. Vaughan, Chairman of the Council; Mr. F. Holden, Treasurer; and Mr. A. Humphreys, Hon. Secretary. Mr. E. J. Collings exhibited a number of autograph letters and portraits, and an interesting letter written by Charles Dickens to the St. George's Club in 1866, with reference to his birthday, was also shown by Mr. Haydon Perry. The Lord Mayor gave an account of Dickens's farewell reading in Manchester, and Sir William Bailey delivered an address on "Dickens and the Victorian Era." Not the least enjoyable items in a full programme were the recital of "Bob Cratchit's Christmas Party," by Mr. John Harwood, and the character sketches of Mr. H. P. Rusden.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE Council had very reluctantly to abandon the Birthday Celebration meeting, at which the members and friends of the Fellowship were to have had the pleasure of hearing a lecture by Miss Marie Corelli upon "The Work and Spirit of Charles Dickens."

Miss Corelli wrote early in January that owing to pressure of work and private reasons she would be unable to give the lecture.

The disappointment which this caused was not felt more keenly by anyone than by Miss Corelli herself, as she has the greatest respect and love for the master, and anticipates with much pleasure being able publicly to express her high esteem for the memory and work of our greatest novelist.

WEST LONDON SUBURBAN BRANCH

THE February meeting of this branch was held at the Church Road Mission Hall, Hanwell, on Thursday, the 16th of that month. Mr. James Morley, the President of the branch, occupied the chair. The following readings were given:—"Copperfield and the Waiter," Rev. J. Gun; "How Nicholas Nickleby left Dotheboys Hall," Mr. H. Van Strattan; "What John Westlock said to Ruth Pinch," Mrs. Liddall; "Old Cheeseman," Mr. Nicholson; "Mrs. Nickleby and the Mad Gentleman," Mr. Harwood; "Mr. Watkins Tottle," Mr. Gillott; and "The Dancing Academy," Mr. W. Chevob. The readings were given in excellent style and a very enjoyable time was spent.

SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE Birthday Celebration was held on February 8th. There was a large attendance. The proceedings took the form of a social evening, during which an interesting lantern lecture depicting scenes from the great author's works was given, the readings of which were contributed by the Rev. W. Garwood. During the evening a telegram was received from Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., wishing the branch every success.

Mr. Frank Speaight gave a recital of the *Pickwick Papers* on February 15th, at the spacious hall of the Hartley University, Southampton. There was a crowded audience—all of whom were delighted at Mr. Speaight's marvellous performance. His remarkable memory, clear voice, distinct enunciation, and power of expression, completely carried his audience with him throughout the recital, and won for him quite a well-deserved ovation at its conclusion.

BRISTOL AND CLIFTON SOCIETY (AFFILIATED)

THE Bristol Society's celebration took the form of a dinner at Chiver's Restaurant, Clifton. Mr. A. J. Tonkin (Vice-President) was in the chair. In proposing "The Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens," he said that Dickens still lived in the hearts of the people. His memory and fame would never perish. Mr. Southwood submitted "The Bristol and Clifton Dickens Society." The society was growing rapidly. It was inaugurated in 1902, and since then the membership had reached the hundred. Mr. C. Andrew (Hon. Secretary) responded. During the evening an enjoyable miscellaneous programme was gone through by members.

The usual monthly meeting was held on February 21st. Mr. A. J. Tonkin occupied the chair. The Vice-President gave a short paper on *Our Mutual Friend*, introducing several characters and incidents, in which were included three short readings, viz. "The Resurrection of Riderhood," "The Defence of the Jewish Religion by Riah," and what Mr. Swinburne has described as the "Divine Scene in the Children's Hospital." A discussion followed, in which Mrs. Tonkin, Messrs. Andrews, Wilkinson, Carpenter, etc., took part. Next followed a recital from *Nicholas Nickleby*, the selection being "The Old Man Next Door," in which Mrs. Tonkin, Miss Peacock, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Malpas took part. The humour of this was well brought out and heartily enjoyed.

FOREST GATE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

THE newly formed branch at Forest Gate held its first meeting at the Public Hall on February 20th. The hall was well filled, and the meeting in every way most encouraging. The chair was occupied by Mr. Arthur Mason, who was supported by Messrs. Allbut, Palmer, Miller, Matz, Marriott, Webb, members of the Council, whilst many other well-known members of the parent Fellowship were also present. An excellent programme was provided. There were several interesting speeches and well-rendered songs. Mr. Allbut gave a very pathetic rendering of "The Death of Little Nell," and Mr. John Toscenie delighted the audience by his splendid elocution in "Dr. Marigold," "Copperfield's Courtship," and "Richard Doubledick." Many members were enrolled, and there is every prospect of the branch proving one of the strongest. Mr. Thomas Webb, 78, Osborne Road, Forest Gate, is the Secretary.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

EDINBURGH celebrated the anniversary of the birth of the great novelist on February 9th, when a musical and dramatic recital was given in the Oak Hall of the Edinburgh Café. The programme included recitations of passages and incidents from Dickens's works by Mr. R. C. H. Morison, who showed fine elocutionary powers; character sketches by Mr. Craighall Sherry, who was particularly happy in his sketch of Wilkins Micawber. Miss Mary C. Bruce and Mr. Austin Elder provided an enjoyable finale in a scene from *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Miss Bruce as Mrs. Gamp and Mr. Elder as Mr. Mould. The Rev. James Stevenson, who presided, made a few remarks on Dickens and the splendid genius with which he was endowed, and the magnificent lifework which he was enabled to perform. Mr. Alexander Eddington also spoke. During the evening a collection was taken on behalf of the Lord Provost's Fund for Relief of the Destitute Poor.

MAIDSTONE BRANCH

MR. H. SNOWDEN WARD gave at the Church Institute, on February 2nd, a lantern lecture entitled "With the Camera in Dickens Land." Dr. C. Pye Oliver presided over a large attendance, who were entertained with a comprehensive sketch of the great novelist's life. Replying to a vote of thanks, the Chairman stated that the local branch of the Dickens Fellowship had a membership of about seventy. An enjoyable conversazione was given on February 15th in the Hollingworth Hall of the Church Institute. The opening address was given by Mr. W. Morling, J.P., and in the course of his remarks he said they all loved and honoured the memory of Charles Dickens, because his heart was near the heart of human nature, and because he was the friend of the downtrodden and poor. A lengthy musical programme was carried out. Mr. G. Masters was greatly appreciated in his recitation from Dickens's *Barnaby Rudge*. The proceeds were devoted to the children's ward of the West Kent Hospital.

CHESTER (PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A.) BRANCH

THE members of the branch celebrated the birthday anniversary of Dickens on February 7th with a supper. After supper there were many toast speeches and readings, all of which were greatly enjoyed. The branch is gradually but surely making headway, and now numbers fifty members. The Secretary, Miss M. C. O'Neill, will shortly visit London, and hopes to have an opportunity of meeting other secretaries and members.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

THIS branch met on February 8th at Steine House. Mr. J. Harry Gilkes addressed the meeting relative to the master and his books. Effective readings by Mr. W. Adams from *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Dombey and Son*, Mr. E. Inker and Mr. F. J. Gauntlett from *Nicholas Nickleby*, were given, and later, "A Child's Dream of a Star," by Mr. E. Inker. The Hon. Secretary of the Birmingham branch, Mr. Yoxall, in a neat little speech testified to the pleasure he experienced in attending a meeting of the Brighton branch, and assured the members of the sympathy that existed between the branches. Mr. Henry Davey also gave a short address.

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

THIS branch held the birthday celebration meeting at 73, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, on February 8th. Mr. John Pool (President) occupied the chair, and there was a record attendance. A telegram containing hearty greetings was sent from the gathering to Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., Chairman of the London celebration. Several new members were elected, and owing to the success which attended the recent public recital by Mr. Frank Speaight, it was decided to invite Mr. Speaight to give another recital at an early date, the proceeds of the two recitals to be devoted to giving a treat at Haughmond Hill to the poorest children of Shrewsbury. Mr. Alfred Evans gave an entertaining reading from *Sketches by Boz*.

THE BOZ CLUB DINNER

THE Boz Club has grown very much since it was founded by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, the first President of the Dickens Fellowship in 1900. In its early days it was composed of a score or so of friends and acquaintances of Dickens, but has now extended its membership to some two hundred well-known men connected with literature, art, law, most of whom dined together at the Savoy Hotel, to celebrate the ninety-third anniversary of the birth of "Boz" on February 7th. The dinner was a great success. Lord James of Hereford presided, and there was a distinguished gathering, which included many of the novelist's descendants, while Miss Hogarth, his sister-in-law, and Mrs. Perugini, his daughter Kate, were in the room during the speeches. Lord James recounted some of the reforms which Dickens by his writings had been able to bring into existence, and alluded to the sources of his great influence. Lord James concluded by asking the company to drink in silence to "The Memory of Dickens." The Lord Chancellor followed, and in the course of his remarks said that while he yielded to nobody in admiration of Dickens, he very much doubted whether the writer's fame was increased by putting him forward as a social or political reformer. Mr. Choate alluded to the enormous enthusiasm for Dickens in America, and gave it as his opinion that Dickens's fame was lasting as much on the other side of the Atlantic as on this side. Mr. Comyns Carr said he read and re-read Dickens almost nightly. He once thought the death of little Dombey exaggerated; but he had come to see that the things he thought exaggerated were the truest type of truth, and he might say honestly that he could never read the death of little Dombey now without the tears starting to his eyes, and without recognising in it the most absolute fidelity to nature. Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., observed that the proceedings had convinced him that his father's memory was still held in loving remembrance.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH.

BOOKS

The Dickens Country. By Frederic G. Kitton. With a biographical introduction by Arthur Waugh and fifty illustrations, mostly from photographs by T. W. Tyrrell. London: A. and C. Black, 6*s*.

The Associations of Charles Dickens with Liverpool. By C. C. Bowes. With an introduction by Edgar A. Browne. Liverpool: The Lyceum Press, 1*s*. net.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

"Christmas with Charles Dickens." By J. Cuthbert Hadden. With portrait of Charles Dickens and two illustrations. *Family Friend*, Dec., 1904.

"The Homes of Charles Dickens." By Frederic Tabor Cooper. With a portrait of Charles Dickens by W. P. Frith, R.A., and six illustrations. *The Twentieth Century Home*, January, 1905.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"Bumbledom." *The Sun*, February 1st.

"Dickens: In Memoriam." *The Morning Post*, February 7th.

"Dickens Day." By S. D. *Daily Express*, February 7th.

"Dickens Birthday." *Manchester Courier*, February 7th.

"Charles Dickens and Manchester." By C. H. Herford. *Manchester Guardian*, February 7th, and letter on the subject on the 8th.

"The Dickens Celebration." English and American tributes. *Manchester Chronicle*, February 7th.

"Charles Dickens in Birmingham." The famous novelist as a street fiddler. *Birmingham Daily Mail*, February 7th.

"Acrostic on Charles Dickens." *Islington Gazette*, February 7th.

"Charles Dickens." By F. W. Keep. *Bristol Times*, February 7th.

Boz Club Dinner. *Daily Telegraph*, February 8th; *Daily Chronicle*, February 8th; *The Standard*, February 8th; *Pall Mall Gazette*, February 8th; *Morning Post*, February 8th; *Manchester Courier*, February 11th; *Daily Graphic*, February 9th; *Irish Times*, February 9th.

"Homo Sum . . ." Leading article on the Dickens Fellowship and Boz Club. "Dickens Birthday Celebrations." *Pall Mall Gazette*, February 8th.

"The Dickens Ball." (Illustrated.) *The Lady*, February 9th; *Gentlewoman*, February 11th; *Lady's Pictorial*, February 4th; *Queen*, February 4th; *Tatler*, February 8th; *Madame*, February 11th.

"In Memory of Dickens." *Islington Gazette*, February 9th.

"Dickens as a Reformer." *The Times* leading article, February 9th.

"The Birthday of Dickens," by W. E. Church. "Dickens as Playgoer," by E. M. C. "Our Poet's Corner, 'Charles Dickens.'" "Charles Dickens's First Literary Effort," a reprint of "A Dinner at Poplar Walk." "Dickens as a Dramatist," by R. A. N. "Dickens and Feminine Fashions," by L. C. Radgelia. "Dickens Wanted to be an Actor." *Household Words*, February 11th.

"The Dickens Character Ball. A Suggestion." *The Free Lance*, February 11th.

"Dickens's Teaching and Dickens's Characters." A lecture at Hitchin. *Herts Express*, February 18th.

"Dickens, the Glorified Reporter." *Brighton Herald*, February 11th, and letters on the subject in following issues.

"A Birmingham Dickens Souvenir and other Reminiscences." *Birmingham Weekly Post*, February 18th.

PICTURE

"Mr. Pickwick's Review." By S. Eytinge, jun. A large coloured plate, representing Sam Weller introducing the characters of Charles Dickens's works to Mr. Pickwick. Coloured by hand. Prices 10*s*. net. Suckling and Co., 11, Garrick Street, Covent Garden.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS

March 1. Memorial Hall, London: "A Sketch of Boz; his Art, Artists, and Admirers," by Mr. Harry Furniss, illustrated by lantern slides from Mr. Furniss's sketches and other sources, at 8.

,, 1. New Barnet: Recital of *Pickwick Papers* by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Wesleyan Church.

,, 3. Manchester Branch: "Charles Dickens, his place in English Literature," by the Rev. R. N. G. Hunter, at Accountants' Hall.

,, 3. Birmingham Branch: Paper by Mr. John Tidmarsh and Readings from *Pickwick Papers* by Mr. Coley and Mr. J. Percy Askew, at Athletic Institute.

,, 6. Portsmouth Branch: Elocutionary Championship of Portsmouth, confined to selections from Dickens's works.

,, 6. Brixton Branch: "The Fortunes of the Wooden Midshipman," by Mr. Robert Allhill, at Ladies' Parlour, Brixton Independent Church.

,, 8. York Branch: "David Copperfield," by Miss Skinner.

,, 8. Liverpool Branch: "The Hypocrites of Charles Dickens," by Mr. J. Wallace, jun., at Common Hall, Hackins Hey.

,, 8. Brighton Branch: Recital of *Pickwick Papers* by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Steine House.

,, 9. Edinburgh Branch: Lecture by Miss Hutchinson Stirling, M.A.

,, 14. Winnipeg Branch: Papers and Talk of most interesting characters in Dickens, by members.

,, 15. Stockport Branch: "Dickens as a Reformer," by Mr. G. F. Johnson, in Librarian's Room of Sunday School.

,, 15. Forest Gate Branch: Lantern Lecture, "Rambles in Dickens Land," by Mr. J. E. Palmer, at Public Hall.

,, 16. Southampton Branch: Monthly Meeting.

,, 17. Sheffield Branch: Papers and Readings by members, at Cutlers' Hall.

,, 17. Blackheath Branch: "The Lawyers of Dickens," by Mr. H. Weston Wells, at Abelista Hall, Lewisham.

,, 21. Bristol Branch: "Dickens: Idealist and Realist," by Miss Dugdale, and Recitation of "The Man Next Door," from *Nicholas Nickleby*, by Mrs. A. J. Tonkin, Miss Peacock, and Mr. C. Andrews.

,, 22. York Branch: "Captain Cuttle: His Character and Quotations," by Miss Kidson.

,, 22. St. Bride's Institute, Fleet Street, E.C.: Needlework Guild Meeting, at 7 o'clock.

,, 23. Edinburgh Branch: "Dickens and the Stage," by Mr. James Wilkie.

,, 27. Brixton Branch: Readings by Rev. A. Thurston Pain, at Ladies' Parlour, Independent Church.

,, 28. Winnipeg Branch: Lecture by the Rev. Canon Murray.

,, 29. Liverpool Branch: Illustrated Lecture by Mr. W. R. Yardley, at Common Hall, Hackins Hey.

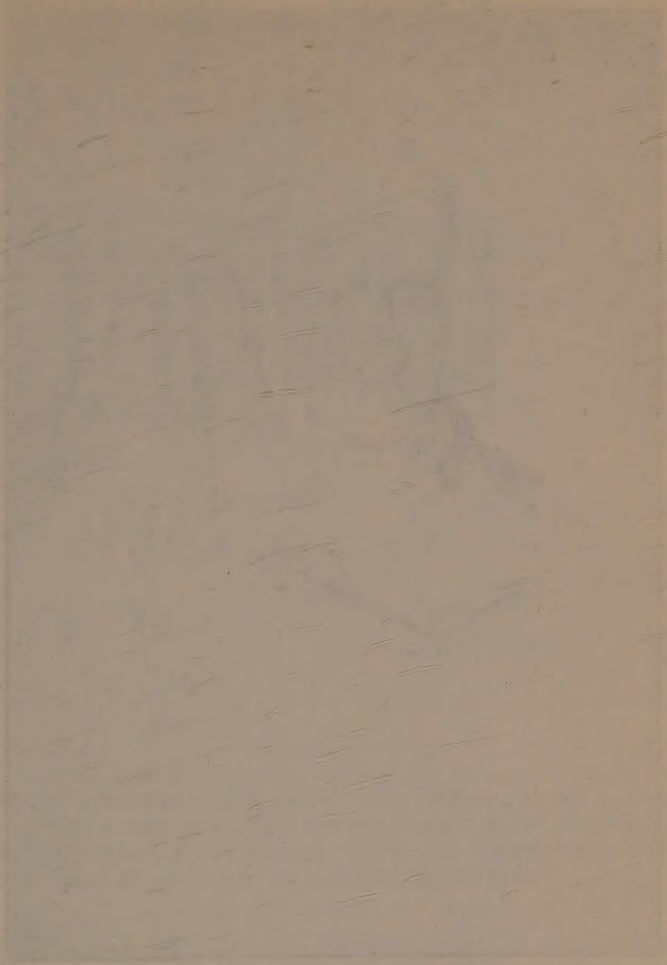
,, 30. Stratford: Recital of *Pickwick Papers* by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Town Hall.

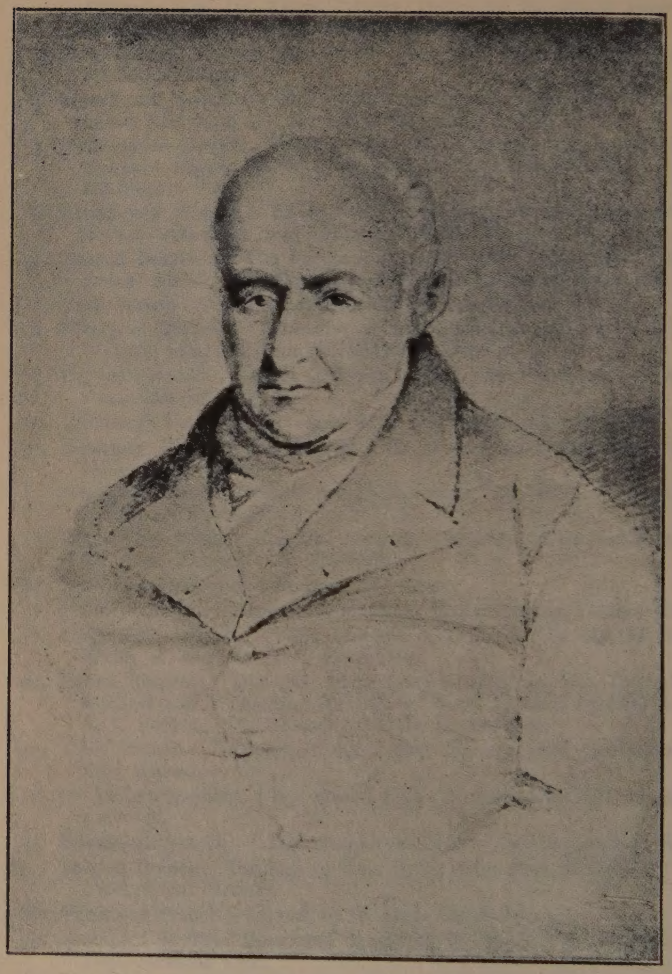
"BOZ"

IT'S so long since Dickens has written a book,
That all the world's authors consider it rum of him;
They hint that he's dead, with a wink and a look,
If he's not, what the Dickens on earth has become of him?

From *Joe Miller the Younger.*

July 19th, 1845.





DANIEL GRANT

THE ORIGINAL OF THE YOUNGER CHEERYBLE

From a drawing by the Rev. T. Kilby, of Wakefield